



While there have been steps backward in America's march toward equality for all citizens, we have made progress. America is more diverse, and better for it. But we must continue to work hard to create a truly equal and just society. Discriminating against individuals based on race, religion, or sexual identity is deplorable and unacceptable.

Historically, the LGBT community has faced significant discrimination. The country has come a long way in recent years, but there remain areas where society still has room for improvement. LGBT students should be able to learn in a safe school environment, free of cruel bullying. Foster children should be adopted by loving families, regardless of the parent's sexual orientation. And LGBT Americans should be afforded the same rights in marriage as heterosexual couples.

From chairing the first hearing for House Bill 2930, an anti-discrimination law aimed at furthering LGBT civil rights in the 1973 Oregon Legislature, to fighting to repeal DOMA today, Congressman Blumenauer has a strong advocate for equality throughout his career. There remains much work to be done.

Solution

Congressman Blumenauer is proud to cosponsor progressive legislation to extend equal rights to all Americans, no matter who they love.

- Blumenauer supports marriage equality for all. The Respect for Marriage Act will repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and guarantee that the federal government will recognize

any marriage that is legal in the state in which it is performed.

- He supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would make it illegal to discriminate in the workplace based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

- Educational institutions must be safe places for young people to learn and grow, without the threat of bullying or the risk of being denied the chance to participate in extracurricular activities based on their identity. Blumenauer will work to pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2011.

- We must stand up for real family values. Blumenauer supports the Every Child Deserves a Family Act. All parents who wish to adopt a foster child deserve the chance to do so, no matter their sexual orientation.

- Blumenauer is a strong proponent of amending the Immigration and Nationality Act to grant same-sex partnerships the same rights and privileges as any other partnership.

One of the most important milestones in this struggle was President Obama's endorsement of marriage equality for all Americans. With renewed momentum, and with continued hard work, we will not only achieve marriage equality for our LGBT friends and families, but equality and fairness in all aspects of life. We are striving not just for tolerance; we are striving to make the country more equitable, just, and fair, so that every man, woman, and child has the opportunity to pursue their dreams in a safe and accepting environment.

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